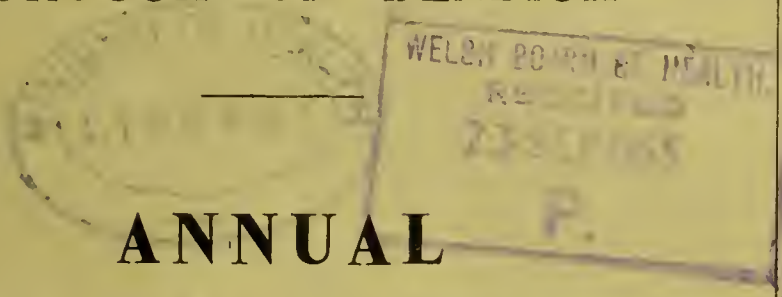
BOROUGH OF DENBIGH



ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT 1952

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

MARGARET JONES ROBERTS

The Clinic, Middle Lane,

DENBIGH (Tel. 289)

SANITARY INSPECTOR

TREVOR H. ALDRICH, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Council Offices,

DENBIGH (Tel. 71)

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Denbigh

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the Borough during 1952.

Denbigh Borough is a member of the Western No. 2 Health Area and 50% of my time is taken up with duties in the whole area, the other 50% by the County for duties connected with School Medical Inspection, Maternity and Child Welfare Service, Examination of Mentally and Physically Handicapped Children, Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, and Vaccination against Smallpox, also other work delegated by the County Medical Officer of Health, e.g. examination of school canteen cooks and helpers, examination of young persons who are entering various colleges or who are entering the service of the Denbighshire County Council as clerks, etc.

In February, office accommodation and clerical assistance were provided. This office is pleasantly accommodated in a room at the County Health Clinic at Denbigh. Although Denbigh would have been the most central position for the office when the area was to include the Aled Rural District, it is not the most central for the whole of the area now.

I would like to express my appreciation and thanks for the co-operation and assistance given to me at all times by the Chairman of the Health Committee, the officials and office staff, especially the Sanitary Inspector, who has always been most willing to give me any help I have asked for.

This report consists of various tables and I have reported on each of these under separate headings.

Housing

The letting of houses in Denbigh has created quite a problem. A points scheme was discussed by the Council and agreed upon. The Council would be well advised to adhere closely to the points system in letting houses as this would produce rather more satisfactory results than the previous manner in which houses were let.

There are several cases of overcrowding in the Borough and it is often difficult to decide whether a house should be given to a family on these grounds or to a family in which there is a case of tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is a family and a community disease and better housing conditions are needed especially where a case has been treated in hospital and returns home to recover during the final stages of the disease. Indeed, cases have been

known to have to remain in sanatoria and thus blocking beds because the home conditions of the patients were such that they would have a detrimental effect on the process of healing.

Sewerage Disposal

I was called upon to report on the sewerage farm and the report has been sent to the Welsh Board of Health. The present state of affairs are unsatisfactory and should be remedied with the minimum of delay.

Water Supplies

The Sanitary Inspector has reported on the water supply in his report.

Facilities—Swimming Baths

There are no swimming baths in Denbigh, but the construction of one has been discussed. The cost of building a properly constructed swimming bath is very high because such a bath should be so constructed and adapted to be of a modern type. There has been talk in the town of having such a bath constructed in water from the River Ystrad, but the water has proved unsuitable because it is contaminated by germs. The water in a swimming bath must be pure as the health of the population, mostly children, who will be using it must be safeguarded. I hope the idea of a swimming bath will not be entirely dropped and when it is possible to pass the water as fit for the purpose, perhaps this facility will be given to the inhabitants of Denbigh.

General Statistics of the Borough

Area of Borough	9,072 (acres)
Registrar General's estimated population mid 1952	8,105
Number of inhabited houses	1,946
Rateable Value	£38,337
Sum represented by a penny rate	£149
Comparability Factor—For Births	1.47
For Deaths	0.93

Deaths

The number of deaths registered in the Borough were 90, being 46 Males and 44 Females.

	England and Wales 1952	1951	1952
Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	11.3	13.1	11.1
Corrected Death Rate (per 1,000 population)	—	12.1	10.3
Still-birth Rate (per 1,000 population)	0.35	0.24	—
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.72	—	—
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	27.6	25.9	55.1

The causes of death are shown in the following table with the number for 1951 shown for comparison.

	1951 Total	1952 Total	Males	Females
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	5	2	1	1
Tuberculosis—Other	–	–	–	–
Syphilitic Diseases	–	1	–	1
Diphtheria	–	–	–	–
Whooping Cough	–	–	–	–
Meningococcal Infections	–	–	–	–
Poliomyelitis	–	–	–	–
Measles	–	–	–	–
Malignant Diseases:				
Stomach	4	1	–	1
Lungs, etc.	–	2	2	–
Breast	1	1	–	1
Uterus	–	1	–	1
Other	8	8	4	4
Total Cancer Deaths	—13	—13	—6	—7
Leukæmia	–	–	–	–
Diabetes	2	–	–	–
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	14	11	1	10
Coronary Diseases	11	9	6	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	5	3	2	1
Other Heart Diseases	33	20	11	9
Other Circulatory Disease	–	3	1	2
Influenza	2	–	–	–
Pneumonia	–	–	–	–
Bronchitis	6	4	3	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	–	–	–	–
Ulcer of Stomach, etc.	2	1	1	–
Gastritis, Diarrhœa, etc.	1	–	–	–
Appendicitis	–	–	–	–
Other Digestive Diseases	–	–	–	–
Nephritis	8	5	3	2
Prostatic Hyperplasis	3	–	–	–
Maternal Causes	–	–	–	–
Congenital Malformations	1	–	–	–
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	12	7	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	–	1	1	–
All other accidents	–	2	2	–
Suicide	–	3	1	2
Homicide	–	–	–	–
ALL CAUSES	111	90	46	44

The number of deaths during the year were 90, compared with 111 in 1951, thus giving a reduced rate.

The age groups in which the deaths occurred are as follows:

Under 1 year	7
1— 5 years	—
5—10 years	1
10—20 years	2
20—30 years	2
30—40 years	—
40—50 years	5
50—60 years	11
60—70 years	19
70—80 years	22
80—90 years	17
90 years and over	4
	90

Cancer caused 13 deaths and diseases of the heart and vascular system accounted for 46 deaths.

There were 4 deaths from bronchitis.

There were 2 deaths due to tuberculosis, but there were no deaths from any other of the notifiable infectious diseases.

Although the Registrar General's figures do not show a death from meningococcal infection, there was one death due to this cause on my monthly returns.

One death was due to a motor vehicle accident and one due to a railway accident. The third wns due to heart failure following a fall causing a fractured femur in a person aged 74 years. Every precaution should be taken to prevent accidents in the home in elderly people and also in children.

There were 7 infant deaths in the Borough during the year.

The causes of death were as follows:

Age at death	*Cause of death*
1 hour	Prematurity and Pulmonary Atelectasis
2 hours	Prematurity (7 months gestation).
2 days	Prematurity. Inanition.
6 days	Prematurity (7 months gestation). Twin Birth.
3 months	Convulsions. Gastric intestinal irritation. Marasmus.
4 months	Cor Pulmonale. Status Asthmaticus.
10 months	Pneumonia. Dentition.

Case 1.—This death might have been prevented by better ante-natal supervision. This confinement case was an emergency, neither doctor nor nurse had been booked. The mother did not attend the ante-natal clinic during pregnancy.

Case 2.—Home conditions here were good. The mother did not attend the ante-natal clinic. It is difficult to know whether this death was preventable or not.

Case 3.—The mother attended her own doctor for ante-natal supervision. Home conditions were poor, although there was no overcrowding, but the poor sanitary conditions which prevailed were not conducive to good health. The young mother did her best under the circumstances and has applied for a Council house.

Case 4.—The house where this occurred is to be extended, thus making it less overcrowded. Death may have been prevented by better ante-natal supervision.

Case 5.—The mother did not attend the ante-natal clinic and was only seen twice by her own doctor. She did not take the child to the infant welfare clinic. The home conditions were extremely bad and better housing conditions would probably have prevented this infant death. This house is not fit for any child to live in.

Case 6.—This death was not avoidable and everything possible was done for this child by the parent.

Case 7.—The mother did not attend the ante-natal clinic but supervision was carried out by her own doctor. The child did not attend the infant welfare clinic although advised to do so. The Health Visitor feels that attendance at the clinic could have helped to prevent this infant death.

All cases of infant deaths are visited by the Health Visitor and reported on. Although no child died from an accident in the home, the Health Visitor is constantly lecturing mothers about this important matter. Accidents do happen and may prove fatal. It is up to the parents to do everything in their power to avoid this. Only too often does the Health Visitor find unguarded fires or saucepans within reach of the child.

Births

The number of births registered in the Borough were 127, being 63 males and 64 females.

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Legitimate	58	56	114
Illegitimate	5	8	13

This gives the following birth rate: —

	England and Wales, 1952	*Borough of Denbigh*	
		1951	*1952*
Birth rate per 1,000 population (crude)	15.3	13.7	15.7
Birth rate per 1,000 population (corrected)	—	20.1	23.1

Infectious Diseases

Notifiable Disease	1951 Total	1952 Total	*At Ages* Under 1 Year	1-5 Years	6-15 Years	16-25 Years	26-45 Years	46-65 Years	65 Years and over	Ages Unknown	Number Admitted to Hospital
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	6	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Enteric	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	12	16	—	—	—	3	6	3	2	2	—
Other form of Tuberculosis ...	3	4	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	13	5	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	1
Measles	12	9	1	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	22	14	6	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	70	55	7	9	10	4	10	6	7	2	2

The above table gives the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year with the figures for 1951 for comparison. During 1952, 55 cases were notified compared with 70 in 1951.

Fourteen cases of whooping cough were notified against 22 cases in 1951. Whether immunisation had anything to do with this decrease it is too soon to tell. All cases of whooping cough are not seen by a doctor, and therefore, they are not all notified. Although publicity has been given to the fact that the head of the household should report a case of infectious disease in the house, this is rarely done.

The number who suffered from pneumonia was 5, that is 7 less than in 1951. One case was admitted to hospital.

Only 1 case of scarlet fever was notified, compared with 6 the previous year. Removal of this case to hospital was not necessary.

Four cases of dysentery were notified. All these cases occurred in a hospital.

The case of meningococcal infection was a very acute one, the patient dying suddenly and diagnosis was only confirmed after a post-mortem examination.

The case of puerperal fever occurred in hospital.

During May and June there was an epidemic of german measles in the borough. Seventeen cases were reported by the head teachers of two schools—16 cases at the Council Infants School and one case at Henllan Council School. This disease is not notifiable as it is a very mild disease causing no ill after-effects. The danger is for expectant mothers to become infected, particularly during the first few months of pregnancy. Any expectant mother contracting the disease, or in contact with a case, should inform her own doctor. There is a real danger of the virus affecting the unborn baby who may be born blind, deaf, or may suffer other forms of disability.

The number of cases notified as having been admitted to hospital during the year were 1 Male and 1 Female (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) and 1 Male (non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.) There were 2 Males and 2 Females (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) notified as having been discharged from hospital during the year.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1952 revoke and replace the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1930. The regulations no longer require a Medical Officer of Health to keep a register of tuberculosis cases notified, but a register is kept for the Borough as in the past. The 1930 Regulations provided for information to be sent to the Medical Officer of Health of a tuberculous patient entering or leaving a sanatorium or hospital, but this is omitted from the present regulations. This information is occasionally received. The information that a patient has entered a hospital or sanatorium is very useful as the Sanitary Inspector is able to visit the house for disinfection purposes.

The bodies predominantly responsible for the prevention, care and after-care of a tuberculous patient are the County Councils and the County Borough Councils under section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. At the same time, Borough and District Councils have statutory functions as Sanitary Authorities under the Public Health Acts, and as Housing Authorities. All cases of tuberculosis notified during the year have been followed

up by the Sanitary Inspector or myself and advice has been given regarding prevention, disinfection of rooms, bedding, etc. Any contacts were advised to attend the Chest Physician for a check up and the names of children in the family have been sent to the School Medical Officer so that they can be referred as contacts and followed up at School Medical Inspections. Help in checking the spread of tuberculosis has also been given by the Hospital Service. The Physicians in charge of the Chest Clinics have been most co-operative in this area and have given a great deal of help in tracing patients, also any information I have required has been willingly given by them.

A Tuberculosis Health Visitor has been appointed for the Western Area of Denbighshire and she took up her duties towards the end of the year. When she has had time to visit all the patients in her area, I feel she will be of great benefit to her patients. There is no after-care committee and this would be of great assistance both to the patients and to the Health Visitor in carrying out her duties.

Prevention of Infectious Diseases

IMMUNISATION against whooping cough and diphtheria is carried out by the various General Practitioners and at the clinics. Mothers are still anxious to have this carried out. During the summer, innoculations were discontinued because of Poliomyelitis cases in the adjoining areas.

The number of cases immunised against whooping cough and diphtheria were as follows:

DIPHTHERIA:

Number immunised under 5 years	6
Number immusined over 5 years	—
Number of Booster doses given	116

WHOOPING COUGH:

Number immunised under 5 years	7
Number immunised over 5 years	3

COMBINED DOSES OF DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH VACCINE:

Number immunised under 5 years	73
Number immunised over 5 years	Nil

Most children are immunised before the first birthday against whooping cough and diphtheria at the same time as this means only three injections, whereas to give them separately

means five injections. Booster doses are given before the child attains the age of 5 years. Booster doses were also given against diphtheria at 10 years of age, but this has been discontinued during the latter part of the year.

VACCINATION. — Mothers seem more anxious to have their babies vaccinated against smallpox than they were last year. This is carried out by the patient's own doctor and also at the clinic. The following figures show the number of vaccinations carried out during the year:

Number of Primary Vaccinations	89
Number of re-Vaccinations	45

The re-vaccinations were carried out mostly on persons going abroad.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified were 11, being 9 Males and 2 Females. This is one less than last year. These figures include two cases transferred from other areas.

There were 4 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified, three of these being in adults. This figure is one more than last year.

The number of patients on the register for the Borough were as follows: —

	Pulmonary.		*Non-Pulmonary.*	
	Males	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*
Beginning of January, 1952	56	57	17	19
End of December, 1952	60	42	15	16

This discrepancy in the figures is due to the fact that the registers have been checked during the year with the registers kept by the Tuberculosis Officer and the County Medical Officer of Health and have been brought up to date as far as possible. These figures include 46 cases at the Mental Hospital, the figures being 44 Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis cases.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit the Borough during the year.

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough

Laboratory Provisions: The Public Health Laboratory is at Conway and specimens are sent there for examination and diagnosis. Water, milk and ice-cream samples are also sent here for examination.

Ambulance Services: The Ambulance Service is controlled by the County Medical Officer of Health and details of the Service will be found in his Annual Report.

Western Area No. 2 has an ambulance station at Denbigh, Ruthin, Cerrig, Llanrwst and Llangerniew, with one ambulance at each station, making a total of five for the area. The ambulances deal with general and accident cases. Each station is manned by voluntary personnel. To supplement the ambulances, use is made of voluntary drivers of the W.V.S. Hospital Car Service and local taxi proprietors for the conveyance of sitting cases. Ambulances to transport infectious cases are sent from the hospitals concerned at Wrexham and Colwyn Bay.

Mental Health Service: A full report of this service will be found in the County Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report.

Clinics: The County Health Clinic is situated in Middle Lane, Denbigh.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS are held every Wednesday afternoons and the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health attends weekly.

The figures of attendances during the year at this clinic were as follows:

1st Visits	146
Re-Visits	1,296

Ante-Natal Clinics: These are attended by the Assistant County Medical Officer of Health on alternate Wednesday mornings. The Obstetric Consultant attends on alternate Friday mornings where he sees special cases referred from the clinic and by General Practitioners.

Figures of attendances during the year were as follows:

1st Visits	109
Re-Visits	141
Gynaecology and Post-Natal Cases...	65

Orthopaedic Clinics: These are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday mornings in the month, the Surgeon attending once every three months.

Dental Clinics: These are held periodically when School Children are examined and treated. Dental Clinics for expectant mothers are held by appointment.

The main difficulty regarding these clinics is the fact that there are only two Dental Officers serving the whole county, one Dental Officer having resigned last October. It is difficult for the two to treat all school children in the county as well as nursing and expectant mothers and also give preventive treatment to toddlers which is most essential. Parents should realise that their children's teeth should be seen at frequent intervals by a dentist. As dental treatment for children is free, there is no excuse for this to be neglected.

Venereal Diseases: These clinics are held at Llandudno, Chester and Bangor.

Hospitals: Infectious diseases requiring hospitalisation are admitted to Colwyn Bay, Wrexham or Hawarden.

Midwifery cases are admitted to Denbigh Infirmary, St. Asaph Hospital or Trevalyn Manor Maternity Home.

General medical and surgical cases are admitted to Denbigh, St. Asaph, Rhyl and Wrexham Hospitals. The view was expressed in Council that there was a very strong feeling in the town that sick persons had to go to hospital at Wrexham as there was no accommodation in the Hospitals at Denbigh, St. Asaph and Rhyl. This sometimes caused hardship to relatives who wanted to visit the patient in hospital. This matter was taken up with the Regional Hospital Board and a survey made of the cases admitted to Wrexham from Denbigh and the surrounding areas. Eighteen cases from the Borough were admitted to the two Wrexham hospitals during the three months under consideration. It was found that the majority of these cases went to Wrexham for a particular reason, but some of the cases could have been accommodated at Rhyl and St. Asaph General Hospitals. During the past two years the Specialist Services in the Clwyd and Deeside area have been extensively developed and further developments are being made. In future, more cases will be able to receive special treatment nearer home.

Nursing Services: There is one Health Visitor serving the area. Her district also includes part of Ruthin Rural District

and Aled Rural District. As well as attending at the clinics she also carries out domicilliary visits and is the School Nurse.

There is one midwife in the area, who also does Home Nursing. She is a Queen's Nurse.

Domestic Help Services: The number of Home Helps in the area is three.

Care of the Aged: Towards the end of the year, the Council has been anxious about the welfare of aged persons in the Borough.

The W.V.S. do a great deal to help the aged people by providing hot meals to necessitous cases, i.e., those referred to them by their medical attendants or District Nurses.

There is also a "Darby and Joan Club" where all people over 60 years of age meet for tea every week. The W.V.S. are doing good work in this respect, not only by these services, but by seeing to the welfare of the aged persons by visiting them in their homes.
Section 47. National Assistance Act, 1948.

No action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

The following report was submitted by the Sanitary Inspector.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

M. JONES ROBERTS.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1952 for the Borough of Denbigh in the County of Denbigh

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of Inspections (4)	Number of Written notices (5)	Number of Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	7	18	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	40	45	2	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	5	5	—	—	3
TOTAL		52	68	2	—	

2.—CASES IN WHICH *DEFECTS* WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.I.)	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(*a*) Insufficient	9	1	1	—	—	—	9
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	10	1	1	—	—	—	10
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork	12	1	1	1	—	—	12
TOTAL	60	2	2	1	—	—	60

May 25th, 1953.

M. JONES, ROBERTS,
Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Denbigh Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending the 31st December, 1952.

Inspections Made:

Public Health Act, 1936	955
Factories Act, 1937	68
Housing Act, 1936	353
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	240
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	112
Shops Act, 1950	85
Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951	2
National Assistance Act, 1948/51	3
Petroleum Acts, 1928—1936	22

NOTICES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Public Health Act, 1936.—Preliminary Notices—54 served, 44 complied with, 4 in progress.

Housing Act, 1936.—Preliminary Notices—12 served, 11 complied with, 1 in progress.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.—Preliminary Notices—9 served, 9 complied with.

Factories Act, 1937.—Preliminary Notices—2 served, 2 complied with.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.—Preliminary Notices—2 served, 2 complied with.

Authority for the service of statutory notices was granted by the Council on all occasions when application was made. One statutory notice was served under the provisions of Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936; and was complied with.

It was again found that informal action and direct personal approach to the persons concerned proved to be the most expeditious manner of dealing with the majority of matters requiring remedy.

No legal proceedings have been instituted under the above Acts during the year.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household refuse is collected weekly in all parts of the Borough. Refuse is removed from business premises every week. Butchers' Shops, Fish Shops and Cafes are served twice a week if necessary.

No charge is made for the removal of trade refuse.

All refuse is disposed of by Controlled Tipping at Meifod Quarry, Henllan. The system is satisfactory and economical. Precautions are constantly taken at the Tip to destroy insects and vermin. Five men are now employed on the Refuse Collection Service, one man being a tip attendant. One of the refuse collectors was trained as a relief driver during the year and passed the driving test.

The Council's old refuse collection lorry has been re-conditioned and is now held as a reserve vehicle for emergency use.

Nine pail closets are now emptied by the Council, a reduction of four on the previous year. The work is carried out by the Refuse Collection team.

A survey of the dustbins in the Borough disclosed over five hundred defective and missing bins. The Council considered a scheme for the provision of bins under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936; but owing to very heavy financial commitments on other essential services, were unable to finance such a scheme. It was decided to ask Owners' of the properties concerned to provide new dustbins.

The very large number of defective bins in the Borough is a serious matter. Not only is the cost of refuse collection increased but the inevitable accumulations of filth and rubbish resulting, encourage the breeding of vermin and insect pests, and indirectly the spread of disease.

SALVAGE

The Council continued the salvage of paper, rags, ferrous and non-ferrous metals from refuse collected for disposal. During the year 54½ tons of paper was despatched to the Mills, and approximately four tons of scrap metal and rags were sold.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the Rodent Operator carried out 1,259 inspections. The number of properties found to be infested with rats was 88 and 23 properties were found to be infested with mice. Action was taken to secure the destruction of all infestations found, and 92 treatments were undertaken by the Council. Domestic premises were treated free of charge, and a charge was

made for the treatment of all other premises to cover the cost of administration, labour and materials.

The town sewers were examined and treated, they were not found to be heavily infested. All Council property was kept under supervision.

Difficulty was experienced in maintaining this service towards the end of the year owing to the illness of the Rodent Operator. A new Rodent Operator was appointed to commence his duties early in the new year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Number of Premises registered for the sale of Ice-Cream ... 26

Number of Premises registered for the manufacture and sale of Ice-Cream 2

Number of Premises registered for the manufacture and sale of sausage and preserved foods, etc. 9

All premises in the Borough, including the above used in connection with the manufacture, preparation or sale of food were regularly visited and the general standard of cleanliness was found to be high.

Thirty-seven samples of ice-cream were taken, of which one was found to be unsatisfactory.

Inspection of Food

There are no slaughter houses operating within the Borough. Inspections of meat and food were made at shops, and the following were condemned: —

14¾ lbs. Ox Liver.	55 lbs. Ox Head and Tongue.
8¾ lbs. Sheep's Head.	6¾ lbs. Pigs Pluck.
14 lbs. Sheeps' Pluck.	1¼ lbs. Sheep and Pigs. Liver.
7½ lbs. Beef.	2 lbs. Beef Skirt.
99 tins Tomatoes.	5 tins Sardines.
2 tins Pineapple.	11 tins Jellied Veal.
35 tins Luncheon Meat.	24 tins Plums.
5 tins Grapes.	2 tins Herrings.
97 tins Cherries.	4 tins Pilchards.
10 tins Prunes.	3 tins Gooseberries.
11 tins Beans.	13 tins Ham (weight 133¾ lbs.)
1 case Pears.	17 tins Salmon.
7 packets Cake & Pudding Mixture.	21 tins Peas.
4 tins Raspberries.	4 tins Vegetable Soup.
6 tins Oranges.	1 jar Peaches.
1 tin Pork Meat.	1 tin Mixed Vegetables.

2½	stone Cured Cod Fish.
36	lbs. Pork Sausages.
8	tins Grapefruit.
41	tins Milk.
5	tins Tomato Soup.
2	tins Peaches.
5	tins Damsons.
1	tin Veal and Ham Loaf.
6	tins Strawberries
1	tin Blackcurrants.
1	jar Chicken Paste.
1	5-cwt. Barrell Sugared Mix.
3	tins Carrots.
16	tins Apricots.
11	lbs. Cheese.
4	tins Stewed Steak.

MILK SUPPLIES

Attention was given to the milk supplied by the three milk retailers within the Borough. Eight samples of milk were taken and tested at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, with the following result:

	Satisfactory	*Unsatisfactory*
Tuberculin Tested	3	Nil
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	3	Nil
Pasteurised	2	Nil

The one Registered Dairy within the Borough was frequently visited.

HOTELS AND PUBLIC HOUSES

Hotels and Public Houses were systematically inspected and particular attention was paid to the securing of hot water for glass washing, suitable facilities for food preparation and storage and satisfactory sanitary accommodation.

Major Works of improvement have been carried out at two Licensed Houses during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

Water is supplied to the town by a Statutory Undertaking, viz., the Denbigh Water Coy., the village of Henllan being supplied from the Hafod Water Works controlled by the Borough Council.

A number of outlying properties are supplied from the North Wales Counties Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, private supply.

These water supplies were found to be satisfactory during the year. Eleven samples of water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination and were graded as satisfactory.

A number of cottages at the Glyn and farms in the vicinity are dependent on a well supply. Four samples were taken from this

well and proved satisfactory. A number of properties are connected to the Bryn Mulan piped supply. This water is unfit for human consumption and is supplied only for general purposes. Samples of this water were found to be highly contaminated.

The Council are considering possible means of obtaining a proper supply of water for this area.

Six samples of water were taken from private wells, three of the samples proving unsatisfactory.

HOUSING

The need for new houses remains acute, and the letting of 64 houses in the course of construction only eased the position slightly.

The Council decided to adopt a points system as a guide for the letting of houses and to form a waiting list. 202 applications were received by the closing date, all applicants in the Borough were visited and their living conditions checked for overcrowding, lack of amenities and the structural condition of their dwelling.

Several families were re-housed from sub-standard houses and action was commenced to secure either the closing or improvement of the houses. In letting the new houses the Council were indirectly able to relieve some of the serious overcrowding existing in the Borough.

No houses were included in Clearance Areas and no houses were demolished or closed as a result of formal or informal procedure under the provisions of the Housing Acts, 1936—1949.

Twenty-seven unfit or defective houses were repaired as a result of informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Two burials were carried out under the provisions of Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, during the year.

COMMOM LODGING HOUSE

The Registered Common Lodging House in Henllan Street, Denbigh, has accommodation for fourteen males. It has been well managed and maintained during the year, and in providing a home for many elderly men it serves a most useful purpose. Very few "casual" lodgers use this Lodging House.

In presenting this report to the members of the Council I would like to express my thanks for the helpful consideration I have received from other officers and members of the Council's staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. ALDRICH, M.S.I.A., A.R. San. I.
Sanitary Inspector.

The following are details of the rainfall recorded at the Mental Hospital Gardens, Denbigh; published by kind permission of Mr. S. L. Frost, Secretary to the North Wales Mental Hospital Management Committee, Denbigh.

RAINFALL IN 1952

At Mental Hospital Gardens—in the County of Denbigh.

Rain Gauge.—Diameter of Funnel—5 ins.
Height of Top above ground—1 ft.
Height of ground above Sea Level—316 ft.

Month.	*Total Depth.* ins.	*Greatest fall in 24 hours* ins.	Date.	*Number of days with* .01 *in. or more.*	.04 *in. or more.*
January	4.73	0.78	4	22	17
February	1.41	0.72	10	10	7
March	0.59	0.18	5	7	5
April	1.64	0.38	5	12	11
May	3.06	0.63	4	15	15
June	1.43	0.34	13	10	9
July	0.98	0.30	17	10	8
August	1.59	0.50	10	12	8
September	5.00	1.10	8	18	16
October	5.04	0.68	12	19	19
November	2.87	0.64	20	18	18
December	4.44	0.86	15	21	16
Total	32.78			174	149

Signature: S. L. FROST.

The following report upon the samples taken under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in the Borough of Denbigh, during the year ended the 31st December, 1952, has been kindly supplied by Mr. Thos. H. Evans, Chief Inspector, County of Denbigh Weights & Measures Office, 17, Vicarage Hill, Wrexham.

Article	*Number Taken.*	*Genuine.*	*Not Genuine, or Sub-standard.*
Milk	8	7	1
Butter	1	1	—
Lard	1	1	—
Tea	1	1	—
Luncheon Meat	1	1	—
Vinegar	1	1	—
Sweets	1	1	—
TOTALS	14	13	1

The retail sample of milk shown in the above table as "Not Genuine" was deficient in Solids-not-fat, but the deficiency was so slight as not to justify further action. No added water was present.

All other samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

THOS. H. EVANS,

Chief Inspector.

County of Denbigh.

17, Vicarage Hill,
WREXHAM.
26th January, 1952.

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